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Bankruptcies slightly down in Q1 2026

Around 2% less bankruptcies than in the beginning of the year 2025

Vienna, 2026-05-08 – According to preliminary figures from Statistics Austria, 1 741 bankruptcies were recorded in Austria in the first quarter of 2026. Compared with the first 3 months of 2025, this represents a decrease of around 2%. Registrations of legal units fell by around 7% to 18 021 in the same period.

“Despite the continuing difficult economic situation, the number of business bankruptcies at the beginning of 2026 fell slightly compared with the previous year. In total, 1 741 enterprises filed for insolvency in the first quarter, around 2% fewer than in the same quarter of the previous year. Most bankruptcies occurred in the service sector, construction and trade. At the same time, we are also seeing the highest number of registrations in the service sector and trade,” says Statistics Austria Director General Statistics Manuela Lenk.

Most bankruptcies in service sector, construction and trade

By economic sector, financial services/other services (481), construction (308), wholesale and retail trade (280), as well as accommodation and food service activities (254), showed the highest bankruptcy figures in the first quarter of 2026, with the number of bankruptcies generally highly depending on the number of active enterprises in the individual economic branch (for active enterprises in 2023, see the highlights table on our [website](#); figures for 2024 will be published on 30 June 2026). Rather few bankruptcies were recorded in the sectors information and communication (52) and manufacturing (86, see table 1).

Highest numbers of registrations in service sector

In the same period (January to March 2026), 18 021 registrations of legal units were recorded, most of them in financial services/other services (5 655), personal services (3 486) and wholesale and retail trade (3 326). The lowest numbers of registrations were recorded in transportation and storage (706), accommodation and food service activities (1 038), in the construction sector (1 074) and in manufacturing (1 107; see table 2). In contrast to the formation of an enterprise, the registration of a legal unit is part of an administrative procedure and is to be understood as a declaration of intent. It does not always mean that economic activity will actually be taken up. Nevertheless, registrations are an important early indicator of economic development.

Table 1: Bankruptcies until Q1 2026 by aggregated economic branches, preliminary

ÖNACE ¹ 2008	2024	2025 ²	Change in % 2024/2025 ²	Q1 2025	Q1 2026 ²	Change in % Q1 2025/Q1 2026 ²
B–E Manufacturing	409	402	-1.7	110	86	-21.8
F Construction	1 105	1 118	1.2	293	308	5.1
G Wholesale and retail trade	1 117	1 106	-1.0	300	280	-6.7
H Transportation and storage	490	551	12.4	128	133	3.9
I Accommodation and food service activities	875	884	1.0	220	254	15.5
J Information and communication	248	220	-11.3	54	52	-3.7
K–N Financial services/other services	1 671	1 952	16.8	528	481	-8.9
P–S Personal services (without S94 ³)	607	566	-6.8	152	147	-3.3
Total	6 522	6 799	4.2	1 785	1 741	-2.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on bankruptcies.

1) ÖNACE: Austrian classification of economic activities. The version currently in use is ÖNACE 2008. –2) Preliminary data for Q2 2025 until Q1 2026 – 3) S94: Interest groups and associations.

Table 2: Registrations until Q1 2026 by aggregated economic branches, preliminary

ÖNACE ¹ 2008	2024	2025 ²	Change in % 2024/2025 ²	Q1 2025	Q1 2026 ²	Change in % Q1 2025/Q1 2026 ²
B–E Manufacturing	3 630	3 765	3.7	949	1 107	16.6
F Construction	3 294	3 441	4.5	1 005	1 074	6.9
G Wholesale and retail trade	11 563	12 418	7.4	3 547	3 326	-6.2
H Transportation and storage	2 627	2 788	6.1	702	706	0.6
I Accommodation and food service activities	3 847	4 004	4.1	1 036	1 038	0.2
J Information and communication	3 587	4 762	32.8	1 240	1 629	31.4
K–N Financial services/other services	21 526	24 254	12.7	7 111	5 655	-20.5
P–S Personal services (without S94 ³)	15 205	14 321	-5.8	3 887	3 486	-10.3
Total	65 279	69 753	6.9	19 477	18 021	-7.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on registrations.

1) ÖNACE: Austrian classification of economic activities. The version currently in use is ÖNACE 2008. –2) Preliminary data for Q2 2025 until Q1 2026 – 3) S94: Interest groups and associations.

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

Information on methodology, definitions: From the first quarter of 2021 onwards, Statistics Austria is obliged to compile quarterly data on registrations of legal units and on bankruptcies. The data are produced since reference year 2019 and published by aggregated economic activities (ÖNACE 2008) 40 days after the end of the respective reporting quarter. All market economy activities in sections B to S (without section O and division S94) of ÖNACE 2008 are recorded. For units for which ÖNACE is not available, the data for bankruptcies is estimated based on an ÖNACE distribution derived from new entries in the statistical business register (SBR). For registrations, in addition the subject allocation of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber

(WKÖ) is used as the initial source for assigning an ÖNACE code. Any remaining missing ÖNACE codes are estimated—just as with bankruptcies—based on the distribution of new entries in the SBR.

A **registration** is the recording of a legal unit in the business register for administrative purposes (URV) under certain premises. In addition to the URV, the statistical business register represents a central database for the data on registrations. In contrast to an enterprise birth, the registration of a legal unit is part of an administrative procedure and is to be understood as a declaration of intent. It does not necessarily mean that an economic activity in the sense of turnover or employment will actually be taken up.

The data on **bankruptcies** are based on the judicial bankruptcy proceedings; the main source is the Judicial edict file of the Federal Ministry of Justice. Bankruptcies are not synonymous with enterprise deaths (the enterprises concerned can also continue their activities under certain conditions) but are an early indicator to measure the situation of an economy. In the event of an actual enterprise closure, all activities of the enterprise must be terminated.

Notes: The data on registrations and bankruptcies for the last **4 quarters** of the report are shown as **provisional** and are revised when a new quarter is published.

In Austria, there are comparable bankruptcy figures for instance from the KSV1870. Although the data source used is identical, there are slight deviations from the figures published by Statistics Austria. Causes include different coverage areas or reference times for the analysis or the assignment of the units to economic branches according to ÖNACE 2008.

Statistics Austria is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment. As a national statistical institute, it is committed to the statutory principles of independence, impartiality and objectivity. Statistics Austria is headed by Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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